

## Early Vancouver

### Volume Four

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*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.*

*Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.*

### About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. W.H. CHASE OF "GASTOWN," AT CITY ARCHIVES, 29 SEPTEMBER 1938.**

**DEIGHTON HOTEL. ICE.**

Mr. Chase said: "Across the front of the Deighton Hotel, looking north, was the bar; on the west side, looking over the vacant space between Miller's house and the hotel, was the dining room, long and narrow, and with a door leading to our cottage between Miller's house and the hotel, but more to the south. At the back of the dining room was the kitchen, a lean-to, and at the back of that, the ice house.

"Upstairs there was a moderate sized plain square hall; just a bare hall, with rooms leading off; nothing more; there was no running water, or anything of that sort; just jugs and basins, and a tub for a Saturday night bath."

**JONATHAN MILLER'S HOUSE. THE PROVINCIAL COURT HOUSE.**

"Miller's house had a low verandah, small and short, along the front of it, looking over the inlet. On the northeast corner was a small sitting room, with window looking over the inlet; then, in the middle, a doorway to enter, and a passage down the middle of the house, and, on the northwest corner, a little court office, just a bit of a place; the whole building was merely a cottage."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. W.H. CHASE, WHO CALLED WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, MRS. W.W. HATFIELD, AND THEIR NIECE, MRS. ETHEL JACKSON, CITY ARCHIVES, 28 SEPTEMBER 1938.**

**DEIGHTON HOTEL. STAGE HORNS.**

Mr. Chase said: "We took over the Deighton House in November 1885, and were burned out in June 1886.

"I don't remember very clearly about stage horns. I rather think they did blow a horn, but I have no clear recollection."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J.F. CHRISTIE, 7881 HEATHER STREET, ONLY LIVING CHILD OF SIMON FRASER, OF GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET, BROTHER OF ANGUS C. FRASER OF GRANVILLE AND JERICHO, ENGLISH BAY, 12 AUGUST 1936.**

**SIMON FRASER.**

Mrs. Christie said: "I am the youngest" (Jane C. Fraser) "of the family, and was born in the Fraser, Simon Fraser, home in that part of Gastown now known as the corner of Trounce Alley and Carrall Street" (southwest corner) "and I recall attending the old Hastings Sawmill School for a day or so only, and being permitted to sit on a long bench and watch; that was in the fall of 1886, as the school at Hastings Sawmill ceased in 1886.

"Father followed his big brother from New Brunswick to British Columbia, about 1876; Mother" (née Miss Mary McKillop) "and three children, Jack, Ellen and Grace, came with him. Father died in Vancouver in the month of March, 1904; Mother had died in May 1885, and is buried in the Masonic Cemetery, New Westminster. My brother and sisters were born in Campbelltown, New Brunswick.

"My sister Ellen, the eldest, finished schooling, under Mrs. Cordiner and Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, at the old Hastings Sawmill School; then she married J.H. Gillespie, a lumberman, and they had two sons and one daughter, the latter deceased. She died in August 1896, and is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery. Grace attended the Hastings Sawmill School also, but finished in the Oppenheimer Street school; she married J.W. Bell, government log scaler, and died, leaving a daughter, in 1896, and is buried in Nanaimo. My only brother was John" (Jack) "passed away in 1904."

**JENNIE WAH CHONG. HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL. FIRST CHINESE STUDENT.**

“There was a little Chinese girl attending the Hastings Sawmill School, Jennie Wah Chong; she was the daintiest little thing; such dainty feet.”

(Note by J.S.M.: Mrs. Christie was one of the seven former student girls attending the luncheon given by the Golden Jubilee Committee at the Hotel Vancouver, 24 July 1936, to the surviving girls of the Hastings Sawmill School. Jennie Wah Chong became the wife of Goon Ling Dang (trade name “Jung Kee”) of Canton Alley, 1936, and had one son, now working on the *Chinese Times*, and one daughter; she died about “fourteen years ago.”)

Corrected by Mrs. Christie.

J.S. Matthews  
11 November 1936.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. RUTH MOUNT CLEMENTS, SUITE 404, 1298 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, VANCOUVER, 1 MAY 1939.**

Widow of A.L. Clements, Esq., and niece of Mrs. Ruth (John) Morton, who came this morning to the City Archives with a photo of four ladies, all Ruths, and of four different generations, the eldest 90, the youngest 15. They were Mrs. Ruth Morton; Mrs. Ruth M. Clements, her niece; Mrs. Ruth J. Steacy, née Clements, her grandniece; and Miss Ruth A. Steacy, her great-grandniece.

**JOHN MORTON’S ESTATE. JOHN MORTON, FIRST SETTLER. MRS. RUTH MORTON, HIS WIFE.**

Mrs. Clements said: “Last September, Mrs. Ruth Morton, my aunt, was quite well; then she developed a slight lump on one of her breasts; it is cancer. Her doctor wants to operate; I am against it; there is nothing to be gained; it is too far gone.

“When wealth came to Mr. Morton, he got others to handle his affairs for him; he had not been accustomed to handling large sums of money.

“First the Rands were his agents; in the earlier days, say 1888, perhaps as late as 1894; they invested his funds, and once, when he was in England, he wrote Rands for money; they replied there wasn’t any; no ready cash; there was a ‘depression on’; it was wanted for taxes; he even lost property for non-payment of taxes. Then the management of his affairs was changed from Rands, and a Mr. Hope took it over.

“Mr. Hope did pretty well; the estate was picking up; then he, too, invested money, and things began to go to pieces again. So, E.B. Morgan was appointed.

“The same thing happened again. E.B. Morgan and the Great West Trust invested his money in their promotions, and again affairs got into a distressful condition. Then the court appointed the Yorkshire Guarantee to look after the estate, and they still have it.

“After Mr. Morton’s death, Mrs. Morton was living on one hundred dollars a month from the estate, but, of course, she had her own property as well; houses, the big one on Pendrill Street at the Bay—on Davie Street—one hundred a month for three years. Then R.K. Houlgate was appointed to look after her personal property. He had been manager of the Yorkshire Guarantee, and when he left that firm, he took over the care of her personal affairs, and when he died, his partner, Mr. Summerfield, took it on.

“Mr. Houlgate brought the estate back again, built it up; then he died, and now, Mr. Summerfield, his partner, is looking after it. Mrs. Morton liked Mr. Houlgate; he used to come up and chat, and she liked him to come.”

**MORTON’S BEQUESTS.**

“At Mr. Morton’s funeral, the Rev. Mr. Perry, minister of the First Baptist Church, said that Mr. Morton had put up \$41,000 towards the Baptist Church at corner of Nelson and Burrard. Mr. Morton did not actually build the Ruth Morton Memorial Church; he told them he would raise half of the cost if they would raise the other half. He gave them the lot next to his home down on English Bay, and they sold it for \$15,000;